

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01125 200641Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /020 W
-----114950 200645Z /21

R 191432Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7552
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 1125

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IC, FI
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN TO ICELAND

1. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN VISITED ICELAND AUGUST 10-14.
OFFICIAL VISIT COVERED PERIOD AUGUST 10-12 AND WAS ONLY
SECOND OF ITS KIND IN TWENTY YEARS. (PRESIDENT HAD VISITED
ICELAND OFTEN IN PRIVATE CAPACITY.) VISIT WAS DEVOID
OF SUBSTANCE BUT ATMOSPHERICS WERE EXCELLENT.

2. KEKKONEN WAS HOSTED BY ICELAND'S PRESIDENT, PRIME
MINISTER, AND REYKJAVIK MAYOR, KEKKONEN HOSTED DINNER IN
RETURN, AS WELL AS RECEPTION FOR FINNS RESIDENT IN
COUNTRY. MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT NO MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE
WERE DISCUSSED AND VISIT WAS ANOTHER SHOW OF NORDIC
FRIENDSHIP.

3. PRESS COVERAGE WAS WIDESPREAD AND FAVORABLE BEFITTING
VISIT OF NORDIC HEAD OF STATE. EACH OF ICELAND'S SIX
DAILIES CONTAINED FRONT PAGE PICTURE AND STORY DURING COURSE OF
VISIT, AND INSIDE PAGES FEATURED PANOPLY OF PHOTOS.
THREE PAPERS PROVIDED EDITORIAL TREATMENT, ALL CALLING
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VISIT SYMBOL OF NORDIC COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN
TWO COUNTRIES ON OUTSKIRTS OF CENTRAL AREA. NO PAPER,
INCLUDING COMMUNIST THJODVILJINN (WHICH NOTED THAT "CLASS
STRUGGLE" LEFT A MARK ON FINNISH LIFE AND CULTURE), REFERRED
TO FINNISH-SOVIET RELATIONS, THOUGH ALL PRAISED KEKKONEN'S
ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

4. DURING VISIT KEKKONEN OPENED EXHIBITION OF FINNISH ART AT NORDIC HOUSE AND ICELANDIC STATE RADIO HAD SIBELIUS PROGRAM.

5. AFTER END OF OFFICIAL VISIT AUGUST 12, KEKKONEN WENT OFF TO CATCH SALMON (STILL FOLLOWED BY PHOTOGRAPHERS) UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE AUGUST 14.

6. PRIME MINISTER TOLD AMBASSADOR AT DINNER AT RESIDENCE AUGUST 17 THAT HE WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY KEKKONEN'S PHYSICAL VIGOR AND ALERTNESS. SOCIAL SIDE OF PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY LAST DAY, WAS OF NON-STOP CHARACTER, AND KEKKONEN NEVER MISSED A BEAT. PRIME MINISTER SAID HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED AT HAVING LANDED AFTER ONE-HOUR FIGHT SALMON WEIGHING MORE THAN 20 POUNDS.
BLAKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770301-0475
Format: TEL
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770843/aaaabkjk.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PGOV, IC, FI, (KEKKONEN, URHO)
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